



11 JANUARY 2011

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Safety Message**

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day helps us begin a new year filled with great promise. Dr. King's leadership, beliefs and values remind us all of his nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement. As Dr. King once said, "The time is always right to do the right thing."
2. The next few months we'll be especially busy preparing for our next series of exercises. We will continue to place significant demands on our Service members, civilians, and family members. Our operational tempo will remain high and, while many in our units and workforce will enjoy some much-deserved time off, most of us will be on duty, ever vigilant.
3. I am particularly concerned with the safety challenges that involve movement of personnel and equipment during the winter months. Outdoor activity associated with rail and convoy operations, as well as aircraft generation and weapons loading are cause for concern in freezing temperatures. Leaders must ensure that Service members are properly trained and equipped, that standards are enforced, and that we all take care of each other—it's the right thing to do.
4. In addition, leaders must emphasize safety measures and be aware of off-duty activities that put our Service members, civilians, and family members at risk. Ice and snow makes off-duty pedestrian and vehicle accidents of particular concern during this time. As always, the loss of just one of our own is one too many. Leader involvement is essential to preventing accidents.
5. I challenge leaders to pay close attention to their Service members during this critical time. Be vigilant and stay engaged. Do everything you can to help ensure "No Loss of Life" as we carry out our mission! The time is right for you to do the right thing!
6. Give this message the widest possible distribution, including forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards.
7. We Go Together!

Walter L. Sharp
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